

Alaska Motorcycle Safety Advisory Committee

Alaska Motorcycle Safety Plan

Statement of Purpose

The Commissioner of the Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (DOT&PF) established the Alaska Motorcycle Safety Advisory Committee (AMSAC) as a means to use knowledge and experienced individuals in the issues of motorcycle safety and roadway operations to advise the department on rider education and training, impaired motorcycle driver enforcement, motorist awareness of motorcycles, road hazards unique to motorcycles, and other matters relating to motorcycle safety. In general, the AMSAC is a review body that provides the DOT&PF with motorcycle highway safety-related recommendations.

Mission

The mission of the Alaska Motorcycle Safety Advisory Committee is to provide a data-based sustainable plan to prevent motorcycle related fatalities and injuries in Alaska

Specific Objectives & Strategies

1. Motorcycle Awareness.

- Goal: Educate the general motoring public that motorcyclists are legitimate users of the roadway and are entitled to their rights on the highway system.
- Strategy:
 - ✓ Participation in motorcycle awareness month and sustainable motorist awareness programs through media presentations during the riding season; and other public educational opportunities.

2. Rider Education And Training.

- Goal: Emphasize, encourage and support sustainable rider education programs. Increase motorcyclists' knowledge of methods to increase their safety on the road, including awareness of hazards, motorcycle operating techniques, and conspicuity.
- Strategy:
 - ✓ Assist rider education programs in securing suitable training facilities.
 - Promote training classes and availability through dealers, rider groups, rider media, the internet and other appropriate methods.
 - Encourage motorcycle dealers to promote proper training and licensing at point of sale.
 - ✓ Work with the Division of Motor Vehicles (DMV) to provide training information when customers are obtaining motorcycle operator licensing and motorcycle registration plates.

- ✓ Collaborate with rider group leadership to develop strategies and campaigns to increase awareness about the benefits of training for all skill levels and promote positive advocacy from within individual rider groups and organizations.

3. Interaction with State and Local Traffic Engineering.

- Goal: Communicate with State and local Traffic Engineering regarding the needs of motorcyclists on Alaskan highways. Accommodate the safety needs of motorcyclists in road design, signage, construction, traffic management and maintenance.
- Strategy:
 - Incorporate motorcyclists' needs in all decisions on roadway construction, repair, traffic management and maintenance.
 - Collaborate with State and Local Traffic Engineering in the development of an inventory of potentially hazardous sites and erect appropriate signage.
 - Determine whether it is appropriate to make specific warnings for motorcycle operators where hazardous conditions exist.
 - ✓ If hazardous permanent roadway features cannot be modified, motorcyclists should be warned of them through appropriate roadside signage.

4. Protective Gear.

- Goal: Promote the use of protective gear by all motorcycle operators and passengers.
- Strategy:
 - ✓ Work with rider groups to endorse the acceptability of proper protective gear and encourage members to choose to wear proper gear.
 - Work with motorcycle dealers to promote the use of proper protective gear.

5. Impaired Riding.

- Goal: Educate and emphasize to the motorcycle community the hazardous combination of motorcycle operation with alcohol and other drug usage.
- Strategy:
 - Encourage other programs that address impaired driving to include an impaired motorcyclist component.
 - ✓ Coordinate with high visibility law enforcement programs and communications campaigns.
 - ✓ Collaborate with rider group leadership to develop strategies and campaigns for impaired riding awareness and promote positive advocacy from within individual rider groups and organizations.

6. Program Evaluation And Data Collection:

- Goal: Collect and analyze data on motorcycle use, crashes, injuries, fatalities, and other relevant information that will assist the committee in making motorcycle safety recommendations.
- Strategy:
 - ✓ Conduct and publicize statewide surveys of public knowledge and attitudes about motorcycle safety.
 - ✓ Maintain awareness of national and local trends in motorcycle related crashes.
 - Evaluate the use of program resources and the effectiveness of existing countermeasures for the general public and high risk population.
 - Ensure the evaluation results are used to identify problems, plan new programs and improve existing programs.